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A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations, Tuesday, May 10, 1932.

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I'm sure you folks who live on farms will agree with me that right now is one of the busiest periods of the year on most farms and that there is very little time for work directly around the home. On the other hand if we want good gardens and to have our places look nice during the summer we must do a certain amount of planting. Many of us are growing fruit of various kinds for home use, and if we are to have good fruit we must spray or dust the trees for the control of both diseases and insects.

As I mentioned in my garden calendar of April 5th, cherry leaf-spot is perhaps the most serious disease of cherries throughout the cherry growing region of the Central and Eastern States. This disease, as you know, causes the cherry leaves to first become spotted and later turn yellow and fall off, usually before the fruit ripens.

Apple blotch is one of the worst diseases that we have to contend with in our apple orchards. Apples that are covered with a sooty substance and often badly cracked as a result of the blotch don't sell very well on the market, and I dare say you don't care to use that kind of apples yourself.

The control of these two diseases is practically the same and consists of spraying with a weak solution of lime-sulphur. If you employ the commercial or concentrated solution of lime-sulphur use one gallon in 50 gallons of water for sweet cherries, and one and one-half gallons to 50 of water for the sour cherries and for apples.

Spraying for the control of cherry leaf-spot and apple blotch started, or should have started, before the blossoms opened. It is now time in most sections for the second spray, which should be applied just after the blossoms fall. If you did not make the pre-blossom spray don't let that keep you from putting on the spray just after the petals have fallen.

Now while you are about it you can just add one pound of lead arsenate to 50 gallons of the lime-sulphur spray for the control of the codling moth and leaf eating insects. The codling moth as you know is responsible for most of the worms in your apples and three or four sprayings at the right time will insure you a large percentage of worm-free apples.

You folks who have roses growing about your homes had better look your plants over very carefully to see if the little pest known as the rose aphid is not sucking the very life out of the tender stems, leaves and buds. You will generally find these little insects clustered around the base of the young rose buds. They are just about the color of the foliage and rather hard to see, unless you look closely.

Several of my neighbors have just recently asked me what to do to destroy the aphids on their roses, and as I have told them, insects are a little out of my line in a way, but here is what Mr. C. A. Weigel and Mr. William Middleton,

the authors of Farmers' Bulletin 1495 on Insect Enemies of the Flower Garden, have to say about the control of aphids in general.

"These insects are not affected by stomach poisons because they draw their food from within the plant, so must be killed by what are termed contact poisons, that is poisons that kill by their burning action on the soft bodies of the insects, or by suffocating them. Nicotine or tobacco extract is most commonly used because it is easy to prepare and also easy to apply. Simply dissolve an ounce of laundry soap in a gallon of water, add 1 1/2 teaspoonfuls of the commercial nicotine sulphate solution and spray the mixture directly upon the insects and especially underneath the leaves.

If you wish to apply the nicotine in the form of a dust, mix 1/2 ounce of the nicotine sulphate solution with 9 1/2 ounces of hydrated lime and dust the plants thoroughly. Be sure that you mix the materials completely and you'll get best results if you apply the dust when the temperature is above 72 degrees. If you don't kill all of the insects at the first spraying or dusting, repeat the treatment in a couple of days. It is always hard to get the last insect and the few that are left soon start another infestation.

No matter what we are growing, flowers, fruits or vegetables, or a combination of all three, we have the problem of protecting the plants from insects and diseases. No matter what part of the country you live in you have this fight on your hands and the important point is to know what to do and to have the materials and equipment on hand so as to apply the remedy before serious damage is done. After you have an infestation of some insect it will be too late to send to your college or experiment station, or to the Department of Agriculture in Washington, for information so in closing I want to mention three Farmers' Bulletins. No. 1053 Cherry Leaf-Spot, No. 1479 Apple Blotch, and No. 1495 Insect Enemies of the Flower Garden.